

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising:
a transparent substrate;
a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;
an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which width ~~depends on the~~ varies over a distance from the contact point between the electrode layer and a lead as the function of the distance; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

4 (previously presented): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising:
a transparent substrate;
a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;
a lead laminated on a part of a peripheral portion of the transparent electrode layer;
an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer and the lead;
a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer.
5 (currently amended): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 4 wherein the electroluminescence layer is insulated from the lead with an ~~insulating~~ insulating film.

6 (currently amended): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising[[:]] :
a transparent substrate;
a transparent electrode layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue), laminated on the transparent substrate;

an electroluminescence layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue) laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which each area ~~depends on the~~ covering the transparent electrode layer is set according to a light emitting capability of the respective colors and the necessary an illuminance on a document required for reading an image of the respective colors; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue).

7 (currently amended): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 6 wherein the electroluminescence layer of the respective color R, G, B is ~~strip formed and the lateral direction width of the electroluminescence for each color R, G, B depends on~~ formed into a strip being nearly equal in length, of which each width is set according to the light-emitting light emitting capability and the necessary illuminance, and each strip is arranged parallel along its length.

8 (canceled)

9 (currently amended): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising[[:]] :

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue), laminated on the transparent substrate;

an electroluminescence layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue) laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which each position ~~depends on the~~ is set according to a light emitting capability of the respective colors and the necessary an illuminance on a document required for reading an image of the respective colors; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue).

10 (canceled)

11 (previously presented): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising;
a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the width at the end of the light emitting layer of each of the light source pieces is larger than the width in the center.

12 (previously presented): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising;
a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the end face of the lateral side of the light source pieces is slanted in relation to the lateral direction of the light source pieces.

Claims 13-16 (canceled)

17 (previously presented): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising;
a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the light emitting layer of each of the light source pieces is made up of a central light emitting layer making the center of the light emitting layer emit light and end light emitting layers making the ends of the light emitting layer emit light, and wherein the end faces of the light source piece are roughly L-shaped.

18 (original): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 17 wherein the end face is off the median line parallel with the longitudinal direction of the light source piece.

19 (canceled)

20 (previously presented): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 6 or 9 wherein a common transparent electrode layer is used in place of each transparent electrode layer corresponding to R (red), G (green), B (blue), laminated on the transparent substrate, or a common metallic electrode layer is used in place of each metallic electrode layer corresponding to R (red), G (green), B (blue).

21 (currently amended): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;

an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which width ~~is depending on the~~ varies over a distance from the contact point between the electrode layer and a lead as the function of the distance; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer.

Claims 22 and 23 (canceled)

24 (previously presented): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;

a lead laminated on a part of a peripheral portion of the transparent electrode layer;

an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer and the lead;

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer.

25 (currently amended): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 24 wherein the electroluminescence layer is insulated from the lead with an ~~insulating~~ insulating film.

26 (currently amended): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue),

laminated on the transparent substrate;

an electroluminescence layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue) laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which each area ~~depends on the~~ covering the transparent electrode layer is set according to a light emitting capability of the respective colors and the necessary an illuminance on a document required for reading an image of the respective colors; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer for each R (red), G (green), B (blue).

27 (currently amended): The image reading apparatus of claim 26 wherein the ~~electroluminescences~~ electroluminescence layer for the respective colors R, G, B ~~are strip formed and the lateral side widths of the electroluminescences for the colors R, G, B are widths depending on~~ is formed into a strip being nearly equal in length, of which each width is set according to the

~~light emitting~~ light emitting capability and the ~~necessary~~ illuminance, and each strip is arranged parallel along its length.

28 (canceled)

29 (currently amended): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a transparent electrode layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue),

laminated on the transparent substrate;

an electroluminescence layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue) laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which each position ~~depends on the~~ is set according to a light emitting capability of the respective colors and ~~the necessary~~ an illuminance on a document required for reading an image of the respective colors; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer for each color of R (red), G (green), B (blue).

30 (canceled)

31 (previously presented): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the width of the end of the light emitting layer of each of the light source pieces is larger than the width in the center.

32 (previously presented): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the end face of the lateral side of the light source is slanted in relation to the lateral direction of the light source.

Claims 33-36 (canceled)

37 (previously presented): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the light emitting layer of each of the light source pieces is made up of a central light emitting layer making the center of the light emitting layer emit light and end light emitting layers making the ends of the light emitting layer emit light, and wherein the end faces of the light source piece are roughly L-shaped.

38 (original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the end face is off the median line parallel with the longitudinal direction of the light source piece.

39 (canceled)

40 (previously presented): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a lens for reading an original document image;

two electroluminescence light sources formed by jointing a plurality of light source pieces, arranged at the right and left of the lens, and joint portions of the respective light source pieces installed at right and left are formed at different positions in the longitudinal direction of the lens.

41 (new): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 1 wherein the width of the electroluminescence layer is increased gradually with increase in the distance from the contact point.

42 (new): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 7 wherein the width of each strip is decreased with increase in the light emitting capability and increased with increase in the illuminance.

43 (new): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 42 wherein the widest strip is arranged between two other strips.

44 (new): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 42 or 43 wherein a smaller angle formed between a document face and a normal line to a surface of the widest strip is 40 to 55 degrees.

45 (new): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 9 wherein a smaller angle formed between a document face and a normal line to a surface of the electroluminescence layer which has the lowest light emitting capability is 40 to 50 degrees.

46 (new): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising:

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;

an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which thickness is reduced gradually with increase in a distance from the contact point between the electrode layer and a lead; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer.

47 (new): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising:

a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;

an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which thickness reduced gradually with increase in a distance from the contact point between the electrode layer and a lead; and

a metallic layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer.

48 (new): The image reading apparatus of claim 21 wherein the width of the electroluminescence layer is increased gradually with increase in the distance from the contact point.

49 (new): The image reading apparatus of claim 27 wherein the width of each strip is decreased with increase in the light emitting capability and increased with increase in the illuminance.

50 (new): The image reading apparatus of claim 49 wherein the widest strip is arranged between two other strips.

51 (new): The image reading apparatus of claim 49 or 50 wherein a smaller angle formed between a document face and a normal line to a surface of the widest strip is 40 to 55 degrees.

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52 (new): The image reading apparatus of claim 29 wherein a smaller angle formed between a document face and a normal line to a surface of the electroluminescence layer which has the lowest light emitting capability is 40 to 50 degrees.